

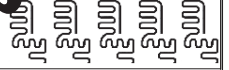
"You can kick the ass of the rich. It's just such a big ass that it takes a long time."

February 2026

the
...well-
balanced
issue...



Pepper Spray Times



It's libratory... it's free... if you can find it

"I have not that alacrity of spirit..."

Vol. XXVI No. 2

Americans Beg for International Intervention

By Simon Aim

"I don't usually pray with my neighbors," confessed a local participant in one of the prayer gatherings popping up across the nation. "But I've already written to my local and national representatives and they seem helpless."

Others agreed. The Democratic Party seems to be outflanked by a cascade of Oval Office atrocities including kidnapping foreign leaders and taking over their country to acquire their resources.

"I thought invading other countries was a bad thing," said another soft-spoken person in a prayer circle in Columbus, Ohio. "They're invading childcare centers and hospitals, they're shooting people on the street. I think at this point we need to invite several other countries to an invasion of this country. At this point anything beats this craziness."

Many expressed agreement but worried that the current president and his administration have offended every single nation on the planet so far.

"Trump offended France," noted one local prayer circle attendee in Pittsburgh. "That's kind of hard to do."

"It's true that most nations have lost any respect for ours," noted a State Department staff member who added that nobody but oil company representatives seems to want to visit the White House or attend the Kennedy Center. "But there might be a few left who have sympathy for at least some of the bewildered American people."

"We'd like to help," said one of the few tourists left visiting a national park. "But Sweden is a very small country. Our army spends most of its time securing our own borders and assisting with international peacekeeping. With respect, we're not really interested in trying to run somebody else's country."

Americans worry that they won't find anyone in any country willing to invade the United States in the state it's in now.

"They're probably not scared of the military," mused a young American with folded hands listening to the quiet singing. "But



AMERICANS GATHER TOGETHER to pray that some other country takes over theirs since clearly that's the last hope of having some sanity at the helm of the nation.

these MAGA people are something else."

"We're obviously not picky about our leadership," another PRAYERFUL AMERICANS prayer circle attendee added. "We really need help." * * * * *



Trump Administration Advises Alternative Phrases for "Women"

By Annette U. Remember

The Trump administration advises any organization hoping for public funding to avoid using "woman", "women", or "female" in their documents to avoid strict Trump administration standards regarding the extremely suspect construct otherwise known as "gender".

- * Non-male
- * Other-than-male
- * Gender that does the cooking
- * Gender that gets paid less
- * Gender that's second-class
- * Unmanly person
- * Girly person
- * Gender that can sew
- * Gender that sets the table
- * Gender that does the laundry

* * * * *



EACH AUTHENTICATION STEP takes time and several separate devices, but the manufacturers guarantee your computer and or financial safety if you finally get through.

Twelve-Step Authentication Almost Ready

"You can't get in," states expert, "that's how you know it works."

By Gordon B. Headed

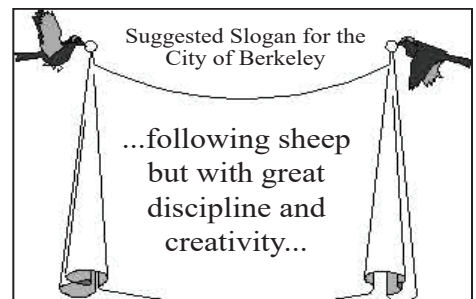
"I'm thrilled," said Allison Mymind wiping sweat from her brow as she cycled through Step Five from her authentication routine. "It takes a lot of time, but at least I know my data is going to be safe. When I finally get there. Someday."

The new mechanism debuted recently and was celebrated by people who are tired of having their lives upended by identify theft and discovering they are the proud owners of cars and boats in some other state.

"I love the idea of a condo in Rio," commented Paula Fastwan. "But I take care of a lot of cattle and have trouble getting free."

"Step Seven is the one I'm stuck on," stated Athena Coming with frustration. "I have to get a code from my cell phone, put it in my computer, then photograph the resulting QR code and put in the next code before a minute elapses. I'm kind of stuck right there. But I just know it will be worth it in the long run."

* * * * *



ASK THE EXPERTS



LENA DEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, are accordions a virus? Is it catching? I seem to be seeing them more and more often.

Dear reader, we are an accordion-friendly newspaper room but yes, they are catching, so you might want to wear your mask. And you should come to our parties. Leiderhosen welcome.

Dear Lena, are we sure that San Francisco is capable of running PG&E?

Dear reader, yes. If Trump can run Venezuela from a golf course, we can run PG&E.

Dear Lena, isn't what ICE is doing just like what Germany did in the war?

Dear reader, pretty close. But a wider net.

Dear Lena, I'm interested in the twelve-step authentication method. Does this involve making amends?

Dear reader, yes. Especially to your elementary school teachers. Your account access can wait.

Dear Lena, what should we do about the Supreme Court making it okay to racially profile people so Immigration and Customs Enforcement grabs them off the street and deports them even if they're citizens? I feel like we need to do something more than what we're doing right now.

Dear reader, we at the Pepper Spray Times completely agree. Assuming you vote and keep track of and respond to what your representatives are up to, we suggest doing your best to look like and speak the language of any immigrant population nearby. Don't keep citizenship papers on your person, do hang out in Home Depot parking lots, and get really good at certain useful phrases in Spanish, Korean, Chinese, etc. And be sure to run for office.

Ask Lena about adjusting your expectations of your kidnapped country at cdenny@jgc.org.

Boat Explosions Produce Perfect Rorschach Test

By Forrest Alling

Experts are thrilled to find a contemporary set of images to use to explore the assumptions and imagery of the human mind.

"We want to thank the Department of War for the accidental utility of its continuing enchantment with footage of Venezuelan fishermen getting bombed without warning by U.S. military planes," stated Dr. Gloria Bee from the University of Fridemind in Wattsoup, Indiana. "We now have a set of images which the news coverage makes clear are extremely useful in conveying not the reality of the moment but the interior of the human mind."

"Venezuelan fishermen are a charming, even poetic sight to most people," added Professor Boris Stiff also of the University of Fridemind. "But the sight of exploding boats coupled with a rousing Sousa march is rarely perceived as tragic."

"Experts in international and constitutional law often view these explosions as sad or even illegal," stated a spokesperson from



THIS IS EITHER A PORTRAIT OF EVIL DRUG RUNNERS getting their just desserts or a violation of international law depending on whether you watch Fox News or just about anything else.



EVEN A SIMPLE PHOTO OF Venezuelan fishermen now presents a provocative interpretation conundrum to those who read the news, a dwindling group of people who no longer know whom to believe.

"We're only at the early stages of redesigning bombers to look like an ordinary planes used for local tourist excursions.



Our video game staff have a lot of super excellent ideas."

THIS LOOKS LIKE A TRI-PACER but it's actually a Rockwell B-1B Lancer.

* * * * *



SCORES OF CONDUCTORS HIRED by the Department of War spread through the country training the American public and lawmakers to watch exploding Venezuelan fishermen boats with exciting recommended soundtracks like Sousa and Kid Rock.

the Department of War. "We offer free downloads to a vast array of appropriate background music for these groups so that they learn some edgy dance moves to really get in the spirit."



NORMALIZING the modern American bomber starts early in life building models with airplane glue.

"We've learned a lot about presentation from video games," commented one Department of War staff worker tossing the old "Department of Defense" stationary in the trash.



No one understands this poor guy.

AFTER YEARS OF PERSONAL THERAPY psychiatrists studying the matter together realized that this man makes perfect sense.

Trump Loses Nobel Peace Prize; Demands Greenland

"Nobody can get through to him," sighs Norway Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store

"Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace, although it will always be predominant, but can now think about what is good and proper for the United States of America,"

- President Donald Trump



GREENLANDERS ARE READY to fight for their sovereignty with the might of their legendary dogsleds and snowballs.

By Duane Queener

After receiving the above message by midnight tweet from United States' President Donald Trump, Norway's Prime Minister, Jonas Gahr Store, clarified to the bewildered and curious world that he had already explained twice, as best he could, that neither he nor the country of Norway had anything to do with the selection of the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

"We understand Mr. Trump's disappointment in not winning the Nobel Peace Prize," stated Prime Minister Store. "We can't truthfully say that we share that disappointment, but the matter never was ours to decide. This point is apparently and inexplicably lost on the man."

"Greenland is not for sale," gently explained one Greenland resident standing with her community in freezing weather un-

der waving flags to make their point to any international audience watching. "We love our country. Especially its free health care, free college, things like that which apparently no longer exist or are about to disappear entirely in the United States. Please, America, look up that word 'sovereignty'."



NOBODY CAN FIGURE OUT why Greenland or Iceland for that matter wouldn't want to be the 51st state of America with Donald Trump and his MAGA stuff securely at the helm.

* * * * *

If you love Burrowing Owls you'll like this book

---AVAILABLE at Duplex Press---

duplexpress.com

<https://www.duplexpress.com>

West Virginia Steps Up Against ICE in Icy Cold



"ICE IN OUR COCKTAILS, NOT ON OUR STREETS" say Elkins, West Virginia, protesters.

By Dora Bullface

Elkins, West Virginia's courthouse steps, lawn, and sidewalks get more and more crowded with more and more creative protesters despite freezing temperatures.

"We're almost all part native American and everything else you can think of," stated one Elkins neighbor holding up an "ICE OUT" sign in thick, knit-gloved hands. "We often have at least five generations of massive cultural input from all over the world. We don't appreciate being called garbage."

* * * * *

Join the Walk For Peace in memory of Renee Nicole Good
SUNDAY, JAN. 11 @ 1P.M.
Begin at the County Courthouse and march to the Iron Horse Statue.

IF ANYBODY ASKS, just tell them that Randolph County, WV, rocks hard.

We Can't Draw Comics

by Franz Toast



Berkeley Police Accountability Board Implodes



By Thomas Wasting

Two members of the Berkeley Police Accountability Board, or PAB, announced their joint resignation on January 30, 2026, while the surrounding community paying all attention at all sighed in relief.

THE USUAL NUTCASES who show up to harangue hardworking city councilmembers who of course ignored their comments because the public just never seems to get it.

who has waited more than nine months for a police report to help modify an elder abuse restraining order. “We don’t disrespect the board members, but at the point at which they’ve become a powerless bunch of talking heads we hoped one or two of them might notice.”

The Berkeley Police Department (BPD) has been aching for months to institute what are politely called “policy reversals” which, if



BRENT BLACKABY, RASHI KESARWANI, AND SHOSHANNA O’KEEFE had to endure comments from the standing-room-only crowd at the mid-day Public Safety Committee meeting eager to bore everyone with their utterly predictable remarks.

enacted by the Berkeley City Council, would change decades of community-based protections from police misconduct. The proposal reintroduces using CS gas and pepper spray in less restricted ways, and promotes using helicopters and “canine patrols”, where dogs are trained to attack suspects, without City Manager permission.

“Why now?” responded one local observer who was gassed years ago and took shelter in Moe’s Bookstore, which offered shelter to people caught in the police riots on South-

side. “Who knows. Maybe they’re watching the ICE raids and want to behave that way. We hoped by now they’d want to be on the side of public safety.”

Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani (District 1), Brent Blackaby (District 6), and Shoshana O’Keefe (District 5) comprised the Public Safety Committee meeting which listened to a unanimous public opposed to the proposal. Then they voted for it unanimously.

“Our police officers have really low morale right now,” they stated. “Nobody wants to be a police officer. They need to have a little fun. Nothing’s more fun than watching protesters scramble to get away from CS gas.”

Kitty Calavita and Juliet Leftwich resigned issuing a statement citing “draconian changes to the use of force policy” and unaddressed racist incidents as guiding their resignations, saying “our continued efforts to fulfill the mission of the PAB will be in vain.”

The crowd at the committee meeting was in some ways sympathetic.

“BPD ranks are thin,” said one bystander. “Nobody wants to join a racist police force.”

* * * * *

Next Issue: loading illicit cargo with celebrities!

I Want My Present Now

by Juan Nathan Undergod



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* Richard III